

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09149 01 OF 02 031639Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07
COME-00 MCT-01 SY-05 NEA-10 /089 W
-----031718Z 056376 /46

P 031530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5055
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 9149

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT
SUBJECT: RED BRIGADES STRIKE AT JOURNALISTS

SUMMARY: THE LEFT WING "RED BRIGADES" TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS IN MILAN, GENOA AND FLORENCE ON JUNE 1 AND 2. ON JUNE 1 VITTORIO BRUNO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LEFTIST DAILY IL SECOLO XIX WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG AND ARM OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE. THE FOLLOWING DAY INDRO MONTANELLI, DIRECTOR OF CENTRIST MILAN DAILY II GIORNALE WAS AMBUSHED AND WOUNDED BY GUNMENT WHILE WALKING TO WORK, AND IN FLORENCE THE AUTOMOBILES OF TWO REPORTERS FOR CENTRIST LA NAZIONE WERE BLOWN UP IN FRONT OF THEIR HOMES. ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 3 EMILIO ROSSI, NEWS DIRECTOR FOR RAI 1 (THE MORE CONSERVATIVE OF ITALY'S TWO NATIONAL TELEVISION CHANNELS) WAS ATTACKED AND SHOT IN THE LEGS ON HIS WAY TO WORK. AS YET NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK. IN TURIN A FAR LEFT ORGANIZATION CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR EX-
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PAGE 02 ROME 09149 01 OF 02 031639Z

PLOSIONS WHICH DESTROYED TRACKS AND EARS IN A RAILWAY YARD AND WHICH WERE AIMED AT PARALYZING THE CITY'S METROPOLITAN TRAIN SYSTEM. IN JUNE 1 REMARKS TO A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE "RED BRIGADES" AND OTHER TERRORISTS HAD VISITED "CERTAIN COUNTRIES" AND ADDED THAT A FULL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT WOULD BE

MADE WHEN THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALL THE FACTS IN HAND.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE LEFT WING REVOLUTIONARY "RED BRIGADES" HAVE CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS IN GENOA, MILAN, AND FLORENCE ON JUNE 1 AND 2. ON JUNE 1 IN GENOA VITTORIO BRUNO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LEFTIST DAILY IL SECOLO XIX, WAS ATTACKED BY A GUNMAN OUTSIDE OF HIS OFFICE AND SHOT SEVEN TIMES. MIRACULOUSLY, NONE OF HIS WOUNDS WAS SERIOUS. THE FOLLOWING DAY INDRO MONTANELLI, DIRECTOR OF CENTRIST MILAN DAILY IL GIORNALE, WAS AMBUSHED BY TWO TERRORISTS WHILE WALKING TO WORK AND RECEIVED FOUR GUNSHOT WOUNDS IN THE LEG. LATER THE SAME DAY AUTOMOBILES BELONGING TO UMBERTO CHIRICI AND GIUSEPPE PERUZZI, REPORTERS FOR CENTRIST FLORENTINE DAILY LA NAZIONE, WERE BLOWN UP IN FRONT OF THEIR HOMES. ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 3 EMIILIO ROSSI, THE NEWS DIRECTOR FOR THE MORE CONSERVATIVE OF THE TWO CHANNELS IN THE ITALIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK, WAS SHOT IN THE LEGS BY ASSAILANTS WHO ATTACKED HIM ON HIS WAY TO WORK. HIS WOUNDS ARE NOT SERIOUS. THOUGH AS YET NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ROSSI SHOOTING, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY LIKED TO THE OTHER ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS. COMMENT: CLEARLY THE "RED BRIGADES" HAVE BEGUN AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE PRESS AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN MOST OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE LATEST/SERIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 09149 01 OF 02 031639Z

OF ATTACKS ARE MEANT AS A WARNING WHICH THE ITALIAN MEDIA, IN ALL PROBABILITY, WILL NOT HEED. END COMMENT

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PAGE 01 ROME 09149 02 OF 02 031710Z
ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 MCT-01 SY-05 NEA-10 /089 W

-----031718Z 056860 /46

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5056

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 9149

2. THE FAR LEFT "FRONT LINE COMBAT ORGANIZATION", WHICH ON MAY 19 BLEW UP KEY RAIL LINES IN THE MIALN METROPOLITAN RAILWAY SYSTEM STOPPING PART OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR MUCH OF THE DAY, ATTEMPTED TO DO THE SAME THING TO TURIN ON JUNE 2. THE EXPLOSIONS IN TURIN RIPPED UP RAILS AND EMPTY CARS IN THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT YARD BUT DID NOT SERIOUSLY IMPEDE RAIL TRAFFIC IN THE CITY. MAY 19 AND JUNE 2 WERE ITALIAN HOLIDAYS ABOLISHED UNDER THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY PROGRAM AND ACCORDING TO A COMMNIQUE ISSUED BY THE "FRONT LINE" ORGANIZATION, THE EXPLOSIONS WERE DESIGNED TO KEEP WORKERS FROM THEIR JOBS ON THOSE DAYS. FIVE TEENAGE YOUTHS, ONE OF WHOM WAS APPREHENDED IN HIS HIGH-SCHOOL CLASSROOM, WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE TURIN BLAST.

3. SPEAKING BEFORE THE PARLIAMANTARY COMMISSION FOR REFORM OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES PRIME MINISTER ANDROTTI DEFENDED THE PRINCIPLE OF MILITARY SECRECY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ROME 09149 02 OF 02 031710Z

IN MATTERS INVOLVING THE SECURITY OF THE STATE AND DEFENDED A GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN CLASSIFIED FILES WHILE ENSURING PARLIAMENTARY ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION. NOTING A STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE (SID) CASARDI THAT, AS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED, ITALY'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICES COULD NOT DEAL WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF "SPECIAL BRANCES OF FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO DESTABILIZE OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS", ANDREOTTI CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A UNIFIED NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WHICH WOULD COMBINE THE FUNCTIONS OF SID (CURRENTLY UNDER THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) AND THE INTERNAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT (SDS) OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE PRIME MINISTER. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS THE PRIME MINISTER STATED

THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMATION WHICH INDICATED THAT
SOME MEMBERS OF THE "RED BRIGADES" AND OTHER TERRORIST
GROUPS HAD VISITED "CERTAIN COUNTRIES" AND HE PROMISED
A FULL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT
HAS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLAIMS, HARASSMENT, TERRORISTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: RED BRIGADES STRIKE AT JOURNALISTS SUMMARY: THE LEFT WING \"RED BRIGADES\" TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACKS ON JOURNALI
TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT, RED BRIGADE
To: STATE
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